

I am appalled by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line of these companies and much less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions indicate clearly why we need to strengthen media ownership regulations, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve a close examination of stations' and networks' activities and impartiality before issuing a licensing renewal and not merely a returned postcard. If Sinclair insists on running this blatantly biased program without running any similar program biased against Mr. Bush, Sinclair's stations that do so, and Sinclair itself, should have their licenses to use the public airwaves that belong to us all and not any particular party pulled for grossly illegal behavior.
Thank you.